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I want to thank each of you for coming out today; especially my children who are just starting summer vacation and already had other plans.

Because those of you who are here know me already, this is not so much for those of you who have taken this moment to share this Start today but more so for those who might follow this movement through the media and other means, please let me take just ten (10) minutes to introduce myself and to underscore the necessity of this hour and of the brief months to follow.

I am Kansas State Senator David Haley and I was born about five (5) miles or so from where we are gathered at the old Douglass Hospital which was but a stone's throw from where once existed a celebrated Township called Quindaro; a part of Wyandotte County which even predates Kansas' Statehood...our admission to the United States coming, of course, in 1861.

Like many of you, like many native Kansans and those who are Kansans by circumstance and by choice, I am fiercely proud of my roots in this truly great State. And like many of you know, like many Kansans who travel outside the five (5) corners of our State, the image that our political leaders too often export is not an accurate image of what most of us truly believe or who we really, as a good, tolerant and intelligent people, truly are.

My father, George Haley, was Assistant City Attorney for Kansas City, Kansas at the old City Hall right over there and then had a law office right

around the corner from where we are now at the old Douglass (now, Liberty) Bank building.

Dad, who was then and remains to this day a lifelong registered Republican, made a little Kansas history back in 1964 when he was elected to serve in the Kansas Senate. In fact, many of the same people have allowed me to serve in the Kansas Legislature six (6) years and, ten (10) years in the Kansas Senate.

My mother, Doris (Moxley) Haley, taught English and Speech and Drama at the old Northeast Junior High School and at the decorated Sumner High School (today one of America's best public high schools known as Sumner Academy).

My sister Anne and I are products of a benevolent and merciful God; of loving, hard working parents; dedicated school teachers and solid, nurturing community ties.

When Dad got an appointment to a federal post by President Nixon, we took our common sense Kansas Midwestern American values with us. And though we see the culture of the D.C. lifestyle change people into Washington insiders with often shifting ties, thankfully D.C. never took Kansas values from any of us.

I spend a little time here to emphasize my personal pride in my family and our love for this community and for this State and allude to my tenure of continued elected service for a reason.

Today, in the shadow of this gleaming statue named for a man who represented core, moderate values for America and Kansas in the United States Senate I stand. I had the great fortune of working for Senator Dole, who remains a close family friend. And while some will ask, why as a Democrat you mention a former Kansas Republican Senator, I do so because those on the Republican ticket are no Senator Dole.

It is because of this sense of history, this love of our families and the ability to put our State first over partisan D.C. rhetoric, that I am proud to announce my intent to serve Kansas in Washington, D.C. as our next U S Senator.

Now, let's be clear, political pundits who evaluate and who poll our State often characterize it as decidedly Republican and that no Democrat, regardless of having sixteen (16) years of Kansas public service, and a solid track record of being fiscally conservative and socially moderate can win a Statewide office. But that D.C. kind of thinking ignores everyday Kansans pulling together in our urban metropolitan cities, in our thriving suburban areas and in our traditional rural communities; putting partisanship aside to reject the regressive thinking, D.C. policies of the past.

Moderation and common sense is **the** voice of everyday Kansans, who simply work hard and play by the rules, and expect the same from their elected officials.

The time for two-step D.C. politics has run its course and the Kansas people are no fools. For over 15 years, my opponents have spent their days and nights, in Washington D.C., spending more and more. That was until they decided to run for the U.S. Senate. Now, they want you to believe they will be against everything that comes across their desk.

You know, I was once told when it sounds too good, it is too good. For 15 years, they had their chance to prove they were fiscally responsible to Kansas and instead Jerry Moran and Todd Tiahrt gave us record deficits, big corporate handouts using **our taxpayer dollars**, and the same D.C. politics that has placed our great state, and this nation, in economic peril.

I will give them credit however. Being AGAINST all the same spending you were once for, simply because of a change in the White House, must be difficult. But in these tough economic times, they have chose to place politics first, and in doing so have kicked Kansas when we needed them most. Being against federal aid to help curb historic unemployment, against 200,000 uninsured Kansans having true access to affordable health care, AGAINST removing pre-existing conditions and AGAINST keeping Kansas based industries and top quality jobs, such as the GM Fairfax Plant right here in my State Senate District, all because a poll tells them to be, must not be easy.

It must not be easy, because their rhetoric, empty promises and politics of no, has real consequences in these tough economic times. Unlike my opponents, this is something I do not take lightly.

That is why I need your help **TODAY** to get the word out to every voting Kansan, irrespective of Party affiliation. I believe, truly I do, that informed Kansas voters will once again send a statewide message to the conservative extremists who every election cycle try to hijack our state to further the extreme, failed, hyper-partisan policies of the past.

I believe that Kansans prefer the level headed ability to compromise, to find middle ground with the REST of this Country, like Bob Dole did so well, and so consistently.

I believe that my experience, in serving Kansas, with a truly independent voice, not a partisan ideologue that shifts with political winds and administrations, is what Kansas voters are looking for in a leader.

With **YOUR** help in joining this campaign, to bring back that moderate, common sense, truly Kansas voice to Washington in 2011, we can say "NO" to those poll-driven D.C. rhetoric politicians.

Today, with YOUR help we can bring back the INDEPENDENT, COMMON SENSE values mainstream Kansas deserves in the U.S. Senate.

Thank you! God bless Kansas and God Bless our great nation.